



Tom Horne
Superintendent of Public Instruction



January 24, 2005

Dear District/School Administrator,

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and the Arizona School Administrators (ASA) want to make you aware of an opportunity for you to be part of the Arizona High School Renewal and Improvement initiative to renew high school education throughout the state of Arizona. We are seeking experienced educators to work with high schools throughout the state on implementing the recommendations from the researched based program Breaking Ranks II developed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. (NASSP)

This is a request for you to consider being a trainer for the BR II implementation in our high schools throughout the state as part of the Arizona High School Renewal and Improvement initiative done in conjunction with the ASA and the ADE. In order to be eligible to be a trainer you will need to

- Participate in two days of training on June 15 and 16
- Commit to working with high schools throughout the state with a partner to provide two days of training to faculty and administration
- Contract your services through ASA
- Commit to follow-up consultations or training with the school as needed to help them implement the BR II program, your compensation and contractual arrangement will be the same as above.

It should be noted that NASSP recommends that the trainer charge \$500 a day plus expenses [room, meals and mileage] and ADE and ASA concur with this amount. We want to make the training affordable for all high school throughout the state, including charter high schools which are often smaller than the district high schools in the Metro areas.

ASA will provide to all high schools, district and charter, a list of trainers available for training the faculty and staff at each school in the BR II concepts. The high schools/districts will contact ASA to request training. Two trainers will then be selected and assigned to the high school/district and will provide two days training.

If you are interested in working with high schools to renew and improve what they are currently doing, we ask that you complete the application form and send it to:

Ms. Shannon Tucker
Arizona Department of Education
1535 West Jefferson Street, Bin 32
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-542-4391
602-542-3100 (fax)
stucker@ade.az.gov

Thank you.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In October of 2003, the U. S. Department of Education brought over 600 leaders together for a national High School Leadership Summit. This meeting launched the Preparing America's Future High School Initiative, and signaled the Bush Administration's intent to make high school improvement a top priority. Arizona sent a team of education leaders to this summit, led by Karen Butterfield, Deputy Associate Superintendent of the Arizona Department of Education. In July 2004 this state team developed the Arizona High School Renewal and Improvement initiative (AZHSRI).

At the same time, The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) has developed a program called Breaking Ranks II: Strategies for leading High School Reform. They have produced a handbook of strategies for high school principals to lead this reform in their schools and have sent this handbook to each Principal in every state. In August 2004, The Arizona School Administrators (ASA) received a Breaking Ranks II grant from NASSP to convene a BR II Summit in early 2005. This BR II Summit is scheduled for February 1, 2005 at ASU West. A team of Arizona Educators attended a three day training session learning the BR II strategies in Portland ,Oregon in September 2004. This team is to be the trainer of a cadre of trainers to go out into the schools and help Principals and their faculties implement the BR II strategies in the handbook.

The ASA and ADE have joined together to convene the BR II and the AZHSRI into one program to renew Arizona's high schools with the goal of improving student achievement, developing their talent and instilling core values to meet their civic responsibilities. This is the background for the program, and we need your help to implement it in our high schools throughout the state.